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State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Environmental Health Drinking Water Program 555 Cordova St. Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Important Information



For Water System Operators and Owners

Northern Flows

Drinking Water Program Directory

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Message from the Manager

he holiday season is behind us, and spring is rapidly approaching. Days are getting noticeably longer, and warmer, and the frequent southerly winds signal change. "Change" is inevitable with the seasons, and the same is true in state government. As the state struggles with achieving "fiscal health", change is occurring and/or is being planned for all the state agencies, and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is no exception. Within the Division of Environmental Health, the Drinking Water Program has been restructured effective March 1, 2004, and has more clearly defined goals for FY 2005 and beyond.

The most obvious change is that we are now the Drinking Water Program, and not "Drinking Water and Wastewater Program". The domestic wastewater component will now be part of the new Division of Water. Most of the staff that were working primarily "domestic wastewater" projects, responding to wastewater

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issues and complaints, and support activities, have moved into the Division of Water. David Johnson is the statewide Section Supervisor for the "Onsite Domestic Systems" group and remains in Soldotna. David's calm, cool, and level-headed approach to wastewater issues should allow for an orderly transition and maintain the group's expertise and focus. The staff involved in the transfer included: David Johnson, Oran Woolley, and Margaret French (Soldotna Office), Bill Rieth (Anchorage Office), Martha Harrison and a vacant engineering position (Wasilla Office), Kim DeRuyter (Fairbanks Office), and Marla Peters (Ketchikan Office). For the remaining staff in the Drinking Water Program, our focus is compliance and public health protection, with both of these being "expected" and required of Alaska's public water systems.

The state adopted by reference the Lead and Copper Rule Minor Revisions and the Lead and Copper Rule on December 12, 2003. These regulations became effective January 11, 2004. At this time, we are working on our primacy package to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for this Rule.

Our first regulation package for calendar year 2004, DW 2004-1, the Public Notification Rule, was public noticed for a 30 day comment period on January 27, 2004. The comment period closed on February 27, 2004 and we did not receive any comments on this proposed regulation adoption by reference package. We plan to

have this Rule adopted and effective soon. The State of Alaska, as a primacy state, is required by EPA to have the Public Notification Rule adopted by May 4, 2004.

Our next proposed regulation package for calendar year 2004, DW 2004-2, will include the adoption by reference of the Radionuclides Rule, Filter Backwash Rule, and the Arsenic Rule. Primacy states are required by EPA to have the Radionuclides Rule adopted by December 7, 2004, the Arsenic Rule by January 22, 2005, and the Filter Backwash Rule by June 8, 2005. The State of Alaska already has extension agreements in place with EPA that allowed the state two additional years to adopt these rules. Also included in the proposed DW 2004-2 package, we plan to update all the analytical references in the Drinking Water Regulations, 18 AAC 80.

Over the past two months, the Drinking Water Program has contracted with NANA Training Services to provide 10 -12 workshops across the state on a review of public water system security and emergency response planning. Attendance and response from participants at these workshops has been great. At this workshop the PWS owner or operator, will have a practical "hands-on" opportunity to complete a vulnerability assessment and develop a written emergency response plan for their system using an interactive Security and Emergency Management Systems (SEMS) CD.

continued on page 4

Regulations by Karen Leis

laska's drinking water regulations are changing this year. In order to keep up with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) federal rules, Alaska is planning several proposed changes in our regulations to keep the state standards for safe drinking water up to date with the federal drinking water rules.

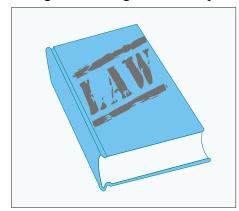
In January 2004 Alaska's adoption of the federal Lead and Copper Rule Minor Revisions became effective. For consistency, we took some of the parts describing lead and copper out of our regulations, 18 AAC 80, and have adopted the counterparts of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs).

The next step for changes to the Drinking Water Regulations is the adoption by reference of the Public Notification Rule. This Rule updates some of the language required when a system has exceedences in monitoring. It is planned that the new public notification regulations will be in effect by May 2004.

Later this year we will adopt the Analytical Methods Rule, Radionuclides Rule, Arsenic Rule, and Filter Backwash Rule by reference. We will also have another proposed regulations package which will make a series of changes to clarify our intent, correct omissions, and bring the Drinking Water Regulations, 18 AAC 80, into a more consistent order. As these rules become effective, we will be bringing you more information about

who is affected, when the requirements for public water systems (PWS) come into effect, and where you can go to look for more information.

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act required many changes in the drinking water standards, and the EPA has more rules planned for the future. We are making these changes to develop an



organized approach for consolidating them into our future regulations. The results of all this "remodeling" work on Alaska's Drinking Water Regulations, 18 AAC 80, should become apparent by the end of 2004, when the chapter will be shorter and the adoptions by reference of the federal rules more clearly labeled and better organized. The current Drinking Water Regulations in effect can always be found on our website, or the "official" version purchased from Lexis/Nexis.

The other half of the story will be found in the CFRs which can be found on the EPA website, purchased

TRAINING

The Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association (AWWMA) will have its annual conference in Anchorage April 13-15, 2004. To register go to the website http://www.awwma.org, or call (907) 561-9777.

from the government printing office, or supplied to you by email from the DEC staff. The CFRs will contain the most current version of the EPA's final rules. Once the EPA finalizes a rule, the states with drinking water primacy, like Alaska, have two years to incorporate the EPA rule or adopt it by reference to the CFR. States can also apply for a two year extension, which sometimes has happened in Alaska. By reading the CFRs, federally regulated water system owners, administrators, and operators can become familiar with new requirements, make plans, and be prepared in advance for the inevitable changes these rules bring. If you need an electronic copy of the CFRs email:

Karen Leis@dec.state.ak.us with your request.

This is the year for regulation changes, and if you want to be sure you are on a list of people who want to be notified of every proposed regulations change, you can send that request to the above email address, as well, or call (907)269-3082. Together the DEC Drinking Water Program staff and PWS owners and operators can work together to ensure that all the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act are met.

Question:

Cavitation in pumps may be caused by pumpina A) Against discharge heads higher han design values

- B) Excessive amounts of abrasive solids
- C) Flow rates considerably higher han design flows
- D) With impeller speed below manufactures' recommendations

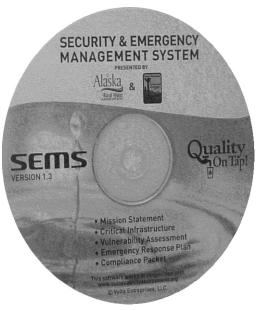
See page 7 for the answer

Security and Drinking Water by Kathy Kastens

ecently we sent all Class A and B systems throughout the state a letter with a CD and security related signs. The CD that was sent is interactive and helps the user create a vulnerability assessment and a written emergency response plan for the water system. The CD's and signs were sent to the administrative contact for your Public Water System. In some instances, there may be one administrative contact for several PWS. If this is the case, additional copies of the signs and the CD can be sent out to the operators at those other systems. If you did not receive your copy of the CD please give me a call at 269-7639 or email me at kathaleen kastens@dec.state.ak.us.

The CD walks you through the process of listing your critical assets, equipment and customers; it also prompts you to decide what the possible threats are to your system, your system's contacts and other pertinent information. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Drinking Water Program, and the Alaska Rural Water

Association (ARWA) worked together to customize an interactive CD for systems in Alaska, with some information about your systems already input on the CD. Please



review this information and make sure it is correct, if it is incorrect go ahead and change it. If you have any difficulties or need assistance with the CD, contact either Brad Ault (ARWA) at 877-694-6792 or email at mail@arwa.org, or you can contact your local DEC Drinking

Water Program Environmental Specialist that is working with your system. We are also continuing our efforts to provide training for security and emergency response along with the use of the CD's. We have two (possibly three) remaining workshops between now and May 15^{th.} There will be a workshop in Dillingham on April 6th & 7th and one in Glennallen May 5th & 6th. Check our website for registration information.

Response =

actions immediately following awareness of an incident.

Recovery =

actions to bring a system back into operation.

Remediation =

Longer term restoration actions.

FREE TRAINING!!!

A satellite training broadcast for the Stage 1 D/DBR, is scheduled for May 18th, and provided by EPA (7:00am Alaska Time). If you want to attend, contact Karen Leis @ 269-3082 to see if there will be a satellite downlink site in your area and if there is room. The training will be at no cost to the attendees.

We are using a new mailing list to send out this issue of the Northern Flows. If you want to be taken off the list OR if you know someone who wants a copy and didn't get this newsletter drop me an email at kathaleen_kastens@ dec.state.ak.us.

Answer to the question on page 2: C) Flow rates considerably higher than design flows

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Staff Profile - Environmental Specialist III- Soldotna by Cindy Christian

avid Litchfield is an Environmental Specialist III for the South-Central Drinking Water Program area in the Soldotna Office. He is responsible for a wide range of activities, including compliance assistance, technical assistance, and enforcement for all of the Class A (Community and Nontransient, non-community) and Class B (Transient non-community) public water systems (PWS's) within the Kenai Peninsula Borough including the platforms in Cook Inlet. David provides compliance assistance and enforcement for all of the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and technical assistance for both surface water systems and ground water systems. He works with PWS operators and owners to make sure they remain in compliance with all of the drinking water rules and are serving safe drinking water to their communities and customers. He is very active in providing technical assistance to PWS's in the Kenai and Soldotna areas. He also conducts sanitary survey inspections and other complaint or enforcement related inspections for PWS's.

David graduated from the University of Maine in 1972 with a BS in

Business Administration. He worked for four years at LL Bean's in Freeport, Maine. In 1976, David and a friend headed to Alaska on what was supposed to be a short vacation, but he fell in love with the area and



decided to stay. He went to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a fisheries technician and consequently completed a BA in Biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1979. He then worked for Fish and Game as a fisheries biologist in Soldotna until 1989 when he came to work at DEC as an Environmental Specialist in the Drinking Water Program. He was interested in using his knowledge of environmental and water quality issues to better his community by making sure that people have safe

water to drink. Over the past fifteen years, David has worked very hard to make sure the PWSs on the Kenai Peninsula are in compliance with the increasingly complex federal rules and state drinking water regulations and that public health is protected. David has done an excellent job to date, and very few of the PWS that David works with are on the EPA Significant Non-Compliers List, which is a measure of his great success in compliance assistance.

David and his family are very active in the Soldotna community. He and his wife, Ginny, have two children, Scotty and Julie. Both kids are very active in sports, particularly soccer and basketball. They each play musical instruments as well, which keeps the Litchfield family very busy. David volunteers as a coach for his daughter's basketball team, while Ginny referees for soccer games. He likes to spend his leisure time crosscountry skiing in the winter and playing golf, his great passion, the rest of the year. David is a very important member of the Drinking Water Program team, working with PWS owners and operators in Southcentral Alaska for the protection of public health. ~

Message from the Manager cont'd. by James Weise

This interactive CD was jointly developed by the Alaska Rural Water Association (Brad Ault) and the DEC Drinking Water Program.

If you haven't already attended a workshop please register for a workshop near you. Workshops have been completed in Anchorage, Bethel, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Nome, and Fairbanks. A workshop is confirmed for Dillingham, April 6 -7, 2004, and workshops are planned for either the

Wasilla or Glennallen areas in early May 2004. These workshops are being provided at no cost to PWS owners, operators, and utility managers. As I have noted in many of my "Message from the Manager" columns, "be proactive" by registering for a workshop.

As we progress through our seasonal and state government and agency changes, let's remember, that together we do make a difference in the quality of life for the residents and visitors to the State. What we do every day is not just a job; it is a way of life.

James R. Weise

Manager Drinking Water Program

Resources Corner: Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) by Cindy Christian

any of Alaska's small communities and utilities are struggling to survive. Due to their small size, isolated geographic locations and limited economic base, most of Alaska's small city governments rely on financial assistance to provide basic local government functions. One of the essential functions of local government is providing water and sewer services to members of their community.

The Rural Utility Business Advisor Program (RUBA) is part of the State of Alaska, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Division of Community Advocacy. The mission of the Division of Community Advocacy is to promote strong communities and healthy economies by providing communities with technical and financial assistance and other capacity building information. This is done mainly by coordinating and focusing the resources of State and Federal agencies and commissions, regional non-profit organizations, and municipal and tribal governments by RUBA Program staff. The Division of Community Advocacy delivers its services from seven offices located in Anchorage, Juneau, Bethel, Kotzebue, Dillingham, Nome and Fairbanks. Staff in the regional RUBA Program offices are in frequent contact with the communities they serve in order to help them meet the challenge of

managing and operating sanitation facilities. The primary goal of the RUBA Program is to provide assistance in business operations and general management to communities responsible for operating water and sewer utilities in rural Alaska. They provide both on-site assistance, as well as regional training in Utility Management.

Many communities lack the financial and personnel resources to successfully operate their water and sewer utilities. Low wages, part-time work, and insufficient training can lead to significant operator turnover and ongoing personnel and management problems. The RUBA Program offers management assistance and financial training for people running water and wastewater utilities in over 40 communities throughout Alaska. The approach to assisting local governments is first to identify community interest in dealing with management and financial issues at the water and sewer utilities, then to assess the individual issues and identify management problems. Once specific problems are identified, a proposed work plan is developed and presented to the community. The work plan and budget to implement the work plan are finalized with the community's

council and responsibilities are agreed upon in the RUBA Agreement. The work plan is revised

periodically to reflect changing conditions in the community. The RUBA Agreement sets standards and goals that the community is trying to achieve. Progress towards those goals is measured and continued RUBA assistance is dependent on the community meeting a baseline level of progress towards

improvement. The RUBA Program is also supported by DCED Local Government Specialists, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Project Engineers, community administrators, regional health corporations, and regional non-profit corporations.

There are several publications available online at www.dced.state.ak.us for individuals or communities interested in getting

more information regarding the RUBA Program. These publications include the <u>Alaska Sanitation</u>
<u>Planning Guide for Small</u>
<u>Communities, Business Planning for Rural Alaska Utilities, and A Plain English Guide to Alaska Drinking Water and Wastewater Regulations.</u>
For additional RUBA Program information contact the following offices:

Anchorage 269-4580 Juneau 465-4814 Fairbanks 451-2748 Bethel 543-3475 Dillingham 842-5135

Check out our new website. There will be an online survey on PWS security soon. And for those third party Sanitarians out there, a list is now on our website of all the PWS that will need a Sanitary Survey in 2004.

http://www.state.ak.us/dec/eh/dw/index.htm

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by Marci Irwin Monitoring Summaries

adopted, taking water samples becomes more complex. Not only are additional samples being required, samples must be taken at specific locations and some must be taken at specific times during the year. To assist in making the sampling process easier, Drinking Water Program, puts together annual monitoring summaries or sample schedules (MS/SS). An updated MS/SS is sent to each Class A and B water system every year. They are sent out at the beginning of the year for systems that operate year round, and prior to the start of the season for systems that

operate on a seasonal basis.

Monitoring summaries and sample

systems know what tests are required

for the year so they can plan sample

times, order sample bottles and secure

schedules are designed to let the

owners and operators of water

funding for the water analysis. The monitoring summary is a table that is divided into columns, showing the required test and location for sampling, the sampling frequency

(how often a sample is required),

ach year as new regulations are when the last sample was taken, and when the next sample is due. Sample schedules give the same information as a monitoring summary, in a calendar format. Once you receive a monitoring summary/sample schedule, please review the information to

> If you haven't received your monitoring summary by April 30 please call your local DEC Drinking Water Program Office. _ _ _ _

> > ensure that it is accurate and includes all the results from tests taken at your water system. If test results are missing, please notify the contact person listed on the bottom of the summary/schedule.

When planning for the year, a PWS owner/operator should review the entire summary/schedule, paying close attention to which samples are due that year or that are overdue. They should decide when the samples will be taken and contact the laboratory for bottles. Ordering the bottles at least two weeks before the scheduled sampling date allows time for the

sample bottles to arrive at the water system. Every water system is required to keep extra Total Coliform Bacteria sample bottles on-site at all times; thus, additional sample bottles should be ordered from the laboratory while you still have at

least four extra bottles. Some labs will send the bottles as you need them, if you fax a copy of the monitoring summary to them. Contact your lab directly for more information regarding this process.

It is a good idea to keep your summary/schedule posted at your water system as a reminder to take your water samples. You should also share these summaries with backup operators or anyone who may need to take the samples if the main operator is not available.

Daniel Rogers, in the DEC Drinking Water Program Anchorage office, has recently automated the process for making a monitoring summary. This will make updating a summary easier and faster in the future. If you do not receive a summary or schedule please notify your local DEC, Drinking Water Program staff.

by James Elam New Rules this Year con'd

indicating that TTHM levels are below 0.064 mg/L and HAA5 levels are below 0.048 mg/L will not be required to complete disinfection profiling and benchmarking.

Arsenic Rule

On January 23, 2006, compliance with the new Arsenic Rule Maximum MCL is required. The Rule changed the Arsenic MCL from 50 µg/L to 10.0 μg/L. The Arsenic Rule applies to all CWS and all NTNCWS, also known as Class A systems. Those systems that have sample results that have routinely or currently exceed the new MCL need to start considering treatment options in order to meet the new MCL.

Initial monitoring requirements for groundwater systems may begin after January 1, 2005, and must be completed by December 31, 2007. Surface water systems must complete initial monitoring by December 31, 2006. A system with a sampling point result above the new MCL must collect quarterly samples at that sampling point, until the system is reliably and consistently below the MCL. Systems that are unable to meet the new MCL will be

required to treat.

The Radionuclides Rule, the DBPR. the LT1ESWTR, and the Arsenic Rule were created to better protect public health. To that end, these four new rules create additional monitoring and reporting requirements for all CWS, NTNCWS and TNCWS. An increase in vigilance on the part of PWS owners and operators is necessary to ensure compliance with these and all of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirments and to keep Alaska's drinking water safe. ~ Northern Flows

New Rules this Year by James Flam

Contaminant

TTHM / HAA5^

For System

Chlorine)

Bromate

Chlorine /

Chlorine

Dioxide

Chlorite

Chloramines

DBP Precursors

System Type

SW* and GWUDISW

ince we have entered the new year, now is a good time to remind you of several new monitoring and reporting requirements. Three new rules have elements that will come into play: the Radionuclides Rule, the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) and the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR). Also, compliance for the Arsenic Rule maximum contaminant level (MCL) is just around the corner.

Radionuclides Rule

The Radionuclides

Rule covers several

contaminants,

including Gross

Alpha, Combined

Radium-226/228,

Uranium, Gross

beta and photon

emitters (Tritium

and Strontium-90)

and applies only to

community water

requirement for the

Radionuclides Rule

is four consecutive

quarters of samples

for gross alpha, combined Radium-

Conservation (DEC) is implementing

this Rule by following the current

Gross Alpha sampling schedule of

each system. For example, if your

Alpha in 2004, you now will be

consecutive quarters of sampling

2004. This initial monitoring will

vulnerable to radionuclides, based

required to complete the four

system is required to sample for Gross

required by the Radionuclides Rule in

continue through 2007. Additionally,

if the State determines a system to be

226/228, and Uranium. The

Department of Environmental

systems (CWS).

The initial

monitoring

There has been a good deal of information regarding the DBPR

upon historic or current monitoring

data, that system must also sample for

gross beta quarterly and Tritium and

initial sampling requirements.

Stage 1 Disinfectants and

Strontium-90 annually to complete its

written in Northern Flows. Below is a chart that summarizes the monitoring requirements for different systems and the various contaminants covered by the Rule. The DBPR applies to all CWS and non-transient, non-

Frequency

Smaller systems are required to keep their monitoring plan on-site and have it available for review during sanitary surveys.

Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Disinfection Byproducts Rule Rule

Location

25% Max. Residence Time (RT)

The LT1ESWTR adds several requirements for systems using SW or GWUDISW and serve fewer than 10,000 people. First, for conventional and direct filtration systems, the turbidity requirements have been lowered to 0.3 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)

> in at least 95% of measurements taken each month and a maximum level of 1 NTU. Second, if the system contains more than two filters, the system is required to monitor the individual filter effluent (IFE) of each filter and record it at least every 15 minutes.

/plant/qtr 75% Representative of distribution SW* and GWUDISW Max. RT /plant/qtr = 500 - 9.999 Ground Water Max. RT 1/plant/gtr 10,000 SW* and GWUDISW* 1/plant/year in month of warmest Max. RT water temp. **Ground Wate** 1/plant/vear in month of warmest Max. RT <10 000 water temp Ozone Plants Entry Point Monthly Same location as TCR/Bacti Same frequency as Total Coliform All systems Rule (TCR)/Bacti sampling Monthly for Total Organic Carbon Prior to Treatment Conventional Filtration (TOC) and Alkalinity Chlorine Dioxide Plants Entry Point 1. Entry Point Chlorine Dioxide Plants 2 Monthly SW= Surface Water; GWUDISW = Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water.
TTHM = Total Trihalomethanes; HAA5^= the 5 haloacetic acids community water systems (NTNCWS)

that add a disinfectant, as well as transient, non-community water systems (TNCWS), or Class B, that disinfect with chlorine dioxide. The DBPR also requires all surface water (SW), ground water (GW), and groundwater under the influence of surface water (GWUDISW) systems to develop a monitoring plan which will outline how systems are determining where to sample, sample procedures and frequency, as well as how they intend to report results to the state. Systems serving more than 3,300 people had to submit their plan to the State by January 31, 2004.

Combined filter effluent (CFE) must be monitored and recorded at least every four hours. Systems with two or fewer filters may continuously monitor only the CFE. Finally, some systems will need to complete disinfection profiling and benchmarking requirements. As TTHM and HAA5 initial analytical results are received and reviewed by the DEC Drinking Water Program, systems will be notified, if they have not already been notified, that they are required to complete disinfection profiling and benchmarking. Systems that have initial results

continued on page 6

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